

6,700 outside. Net increase in number of permanent government housing units expected to be only 310. Therefore, 6,700 probably is maximum number of military-connected residents who could be absorbed by 1980 (half by 1970.)

13,350 16,700

Total population of Jacksonville, estimated

17,438 21,574

Actually, the possibility of the town absorbing all of the military-connected population now living off the base but outside of Jacksonville is optimistic; however, an equivalent number of people may be added to the population through annexations, industrialization, expansion of the Base air facility, and so on. Much depends upon the extent to which the city succeeds in overcoming handicaps which were more or less forced upon it during the boom years. In a nutshell, since the military-connected population is expected to "rotate" instead of increase, population growth will be determined by the attractiveness of the community. A military payroll in excess of \$55,000,000 per year is a mighty attraction in itself.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION

Historical data pertaining to the characteristics of the population usually come from the decennial census. Twenty years ago, however, Jacksonville had fewer than 1,000 inhabitants; therefore, very few data of this type are available, for the Bureau of the Census did not publish detailed characteristics for places of that size. Since 1950 more information is available, and within a short time after the publication of this report the results of the 1960 decennial census will be released. The tables presented at the back of this report contain what is available.

AGE CHARACTERISTICS

In 1950 age groups in Jacksonville differed significantly from those applicable to all urban North Carolina. Jacksonville had more children under five years of age than did urban North Carolina, but fewer children in the groups 5 to 9, 10 to 14, and 15 to 19. The 1960 census will show a reversal of this apportionment, for the large number of school-age dependents of military personnel will doubtless be proportionately larger.

The most outstanding difference was among those aged 25 to 34, which probably represents the influence of service-connected persons. This preponderance of younger middle-aged people reflected also a much lower than average proportion of individuals aged 65 and over--2.9 percent compared with 5.4 percent throughout the urban portion of North Carolina.

The changes in population characteristics that have taken place during the past ten years may be surmised from a few clues. For example, during the 1958-1959 school year a total of 4,336 children